

FLD 199

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.  25X1

SUBJECT 1. Miscellaneous Military Information from the Smolyan and Kurdzhali Areas

2. Release of Prisoners in Sliven

DATE OF INFO. See Below

DATE DISTR. 13 October 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED

REFERENCE NO. RD

REFERENCES

BY CABLE

1. On the morning of 8 August 1953, informant observed a column of 2,000 men and equipment moving from Chepelare (N 41-43, E 24-41) to Ustovo (N 41-34, E 24-48). The column included the following:

- a. Approximately four or five companies composed of 200 men each;
- b. A major on horseback heading a detachment of approximately 40 mules loaded with machine guns and equipment;
- c. Additional men on foot;
- d. Three or four Army trucks, 3-axle; and
- e. Approximately 25 horse-drawn carts.

2. On the night of 8 August 1953,  truck was stopped repeatedly by Militia and soldier patrols outside Ustovo.
3. At noon on 9 August 1953, informant saw many soldiers and a great deal of equipment parked on the streets of Ustovo. A tent camp was set up around the Ustovo barracks. At 2:00 p.m. on 10 August 1953, the situation had returned to normal and only the regular garrison was present. No further movement was observed over the Ustovo-Chepelare or the Ustovo-Kurdzhali roads. Informant believes that the unidentified unit moved to Smolyan or Devin.
4. On about 15 July 1953, informant observed a large number of horses and mules gathered in Madan. The inhabitants complained that the Army had forced them to sell their best animals and carts. These had not been returned by 9 September.

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5. On about 15 July 1953, the 1924-1929 recruit classes were called up in the Kurdzhali area. The men had not been released by 9 September 1953.
6. About 30 August 1953, Soviet technicians and their families were recalled from Madan.
7. The 1930, 1931, 1932, and part of the 1933, and 1934 recruit classes are now serving. The 1935 and 1936 classes have received their physical exams.
8.  a former merchant from the Ardino area who had been released in the summer of 1953 from a life sentence in the Sliven prison. 250 other prisoners serving various sentences were also released. The merchant stated that death sentences had been commuted and many prison sentences had been nullified.

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